

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00963 130943Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 MCT-01 ACDA-12 TRSE-00
COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 /089 W
-----094336 130948Z /16

O R 130847Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 963

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: S,PDEV, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: COMMENTS BY DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS MAY 13, WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON
STATEMENT OF MAY 11 BY DEPT OF STATE SPOKESMAN, DEFENSE
MINISTER BOTHA SAID THE FOLLOWING:
QUOTE: NO SELF RESPECTING COUNTRY CAN ALLOW ITSELF TO BE
DICTATED TO FROM OUTSIDE. IF EVER SOUTH AFRICA'S INTEREST
WITHIN THE
REPUBLIC OR THE INTEGRITY OF OUR BORDERS ARE JEOPARDIZED WE
SHALL STRIKE BACK. AS LONG AS WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY
OF SOUTHWEST AFRICA AND ITS PEACE LOVING PEOPLES WE SHALL
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WITHSTAND ANY ATTEMPTS TO CREATE CHAOS. UNQUOTE

2. DEFENSE SPOKESMEN FOR BOTH OPPOSITION PARTIES AGAIN
SUPPORTED SOUTH AFRICA'S RIGHT TO MAKE RETALIATORY RAIDS AS
IN THE CASE OF THE MAY 4 INCIDENT. PFP SPOKESMAN HARRY SCHWARZ
WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING, "I REALIZE THE POLITICAL
RISKS, BUT WHILE THESE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES CONTINUE, AT

LEAST HOT PURSUIT CAN BE JUSTIFIED BOTH IN LAW AND MORALLY."

3. MEANWHILE, ACCORDING TO MAY 13 PRESS REPORTS, FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA SAID HE HAD READ PRESIDENT BONGO'S RECENT STATEMENT ON THE NAMIBIAN ISSUE WITH GREAT INTEREST. BOTHA SAID THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT AGREE FULLY WITH THE STATEMENT, "IT CONTAINS SEVERAL POSITIVE ELEMENTS WHICH GIVE US THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PRESIDENT IS SHOWING A REALISTIC APPROACH, WHICH COULD HOPEFULLY BE BUILT ON TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE." AS FAR AS WALVIS BAY IS CONCERNED, BOTHA SAID, "I REPEAT AGAIN THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS PREPARED TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA." NELSON

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